

| Health and Safety Executive Board | | Paper No: HSE/09/63 | |
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| Statement of Commitment and leaflet on developing partnership arrangements between Local Authorities and HSE | | | |

Purpose of the paper

1. The Board is asked to note that the attached leaflet setting out a new statement of commitment to the partnership between HSE and Local Authorities will be released at the forthcoming Local Government Association Conference in Harrogate at the beginning of July.

Background

2. This proposal stems from last year's evaluation of the HSE/LA partnership which included a recommendation that we clarify and publicise partnership governance arrangements (MISC/08/17). The opportunity has also been taken to consider replacing and building upon the 2004 HSE/LA "Statement of Intent" with a "Statement of Commitment" as we move into a more mature stage of the partnership.
3. The draft statement of commitment (attached) on page 1 combines:
 - clear objectives from HSE's new strategy;
 - the aims of partnership working – as expressed in the "Section 18 HSWA standard on enforcement" (HSC/08/12) - so as to deliver the strategy's objectives; and
 - a commitment to implement the new Section 18 standard on enforcement by 2011.
4. Pages 2 and 3 explain the partnership governance structures. Page 4 combines a joint message from the HSE Chair and LACORS Chairman with background information on HSE/LA enforcement and the Section 18 standard.
5. The leaflet will be produced in two forms, one a double sided A4 format consisting of pages 1 and 4 aimed at Councillors and Chief Executives the other a version containing all the information which is aimed at LA inspectors.

Argument

6. The leaflet fulfils three purposes
 - a) Engaging LA Chief Executives and Councillors - launch of the leaflet at the LGA conference (launch details are currently being developed but will be based around the Local Government Association stand) will help raise the profile of health and safety regulation with LAs. The leaflet will then also be used by LA professionals working within their authorities to further raise awareness with senior managers and councillors;
 - b) Clarifying partnership governance and structures – the long form of the leaflet provides an easy reference for LA and HSE inspectors to how the partnership works and how they can engage with it more effectively:

- c) Supporting the S18 standard – the leaflet will also be formatted as an electronic document to support the “Make a difference” section of the S18 standard with links to further information to assist LA inspectors to “actively contribute to liaison, policy and governance arrangements at a local, regional and national level”.

7. The leaflet has been subject to extensive consultation. The LACORS Health and Safety Policy Forum was consulted regarding the proposal at its meeting on 3 February. HELA considered a developed document on 23 March and endorsed the approach and format. The HSE Board (represented by Judith Hackitt, Sandy Blair, Danny Carrigan and Robin Dahlberg) and the Local Government Panel considered the document in detail at their meeting on 15 April. The Board/LGP discussions produced a number of suggestions; these have all been included in the attached leaflet. The joint statement from the Chairs of HSE and LACORS has been seen and agreed by both.

8. The Board/LGP also suggested that the document should be launched at the Local Government Association conference at the beginning of July as many LA Chief Executives and councillors attend the event. Details of the launch are currently being developed, but it is proposed to base the launch around the Local Government Association stand. Including the document within the July edition of Local Government (a publication widely read by the target audience) is also being considered. In addition, the leaflet will be further publicised at partnership events planned to be held in Wales and the English regions during October and November 09. Other opportunities to publicise the leaflet in Scotland and Wales are being discussed with LACORS.

Action

9. The Board is asked to note the leaflet and the steps taken to ensure the aims of the LA/HSE partnership are aligned towards delivery of the strategy

Paper clearance

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